

SOME NEW SPECIES OF PROTALEBRA FROM MEXICO

(HOMOPTERA: CICADELLIDAE)

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The genus *Protalebra* was erected by Baker (1899) to include the *Alebra*-like species with appendices which do not extend to the apices of the elytra. *Alebra curvilinea* Gillette (1898) was selected at that time as the genotype. Species of the genus have been described subsequent to Baker's paper by Baker (1903), Osborn (1929, 1928), Knull (1940), McAtee (1926), Van Duzee (1907, 1923), DeLong (1923), Dozier (1927), and Oman (1937). *protalebra* is predominately neotropical in distribution with species of the genus known to occur from Brazil to the southern United States and the islands of the Caribbean.

Our examination of collections of typhlocybina specimens from Mexico has shown seven new species of *Protalebra* which are described below. Unless otherwise stated, the types of these species are in the DeLong collection.

Protalebra variata n. sp.

A large, robust species with a rounded vertex which resembles *omega* VanDuzee except for its color pattern and genital structures. Length 3.3 mm.

Color: The vertex is ivory with a pair of large, round, black spots near its apex. The disk of the pronotum is orange, its anterior margin is yellow, and its posterior margin is broadly bordered with an ivory band. The scutellum is light yellow with its apex black. The elytra are light tan with their apices and transverse veins enbrowned and with a hyaline band extending transversely across the middle of each clavus to the center of the corium. The anterior portions of the apical cells are hyaline, a fine brown line extends from the middle of each costal margin to the apex of each clavus, and a similar line borders the anterior margin of the hyaline band on the clavus. The face and venter are immaculate cream.

Genitalia: The pygofer are long with their apices pointed and with sickle-shaped processes arising on their ventral margins. The plates are long and very slender. The styles are long and slender with their apices curving sharply ventrad. The dorsal processes of the base are slender and pointed at their apices, and the phallicata is slender and long and bears a sharp spine near the base of its ventral margin.

Holotype male collected at Cutzamala, G'ro., Aug. 20, 1930 (MF 1768) by J. Parra; male paratypes Zincauro, G'ro., Sept. 2, 1930 (MF 1789), J. Parra.

Protalebra plummeri n. sp.

Resembling *sanguinolinea* (Baker) in general form and appearance but with a distinctive coloration. Length 2.6 mm.

Color: The vertex is an immaculate light cream. The pronotum is ivory with its lateral margins and the anterior portion of its disk red. The scutellum is orange-tan with its basal angles yellow and its apex black. The elytra are translucent white with their apical cells hyaline and enbrowned and with their bases orange-brown edged posteriorly by a fine scalloped brown line. This brown line extends obliquely from the costa to the apex of the clavus and then transversely back to the middle of the costal margin. The centers of the coria are smoky and the disks of the clavi are golden. The sides of the pronotum are red, the face and the venter are ivory with the first two abdominal sternites and the centers of the pygofer and ovipositor black.

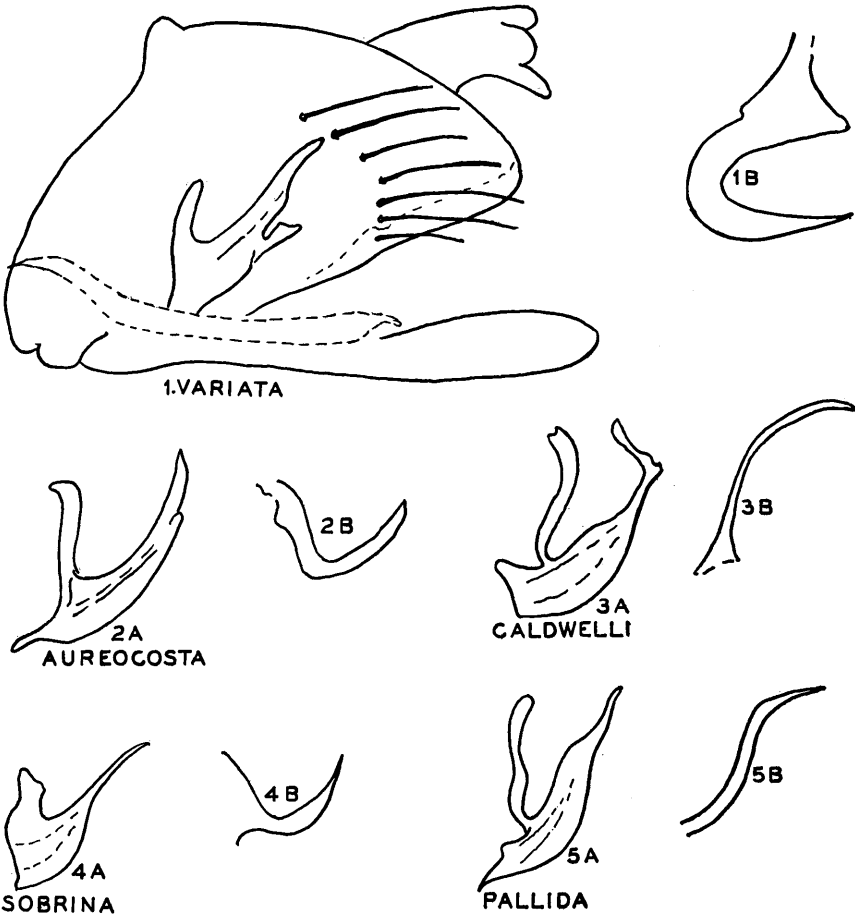
Holotype female collected at Chilpancingo, G'ro., Oct. 25, 1941 by DeLong and Good; paratype female collected by the same collectors at Iguala, G'ro., same date.

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Named for Mr. Charles Plummer who has aided in the collection of many of the specimens used in this study.

Protalebra aureocosta n. sp.

Resembling *decorata* (Osborn) in general form and appearance but with distinctive coloration and male genital structures. Length 2.8.mm.



FIGURES 1-5. 1a—*Protalebra variata*—lateral view of genital capsule; 1b—left pygofer process. 2a—*P. aureocosta*—lateral view of aedeagus; 2b—lateral pygofer process. 3a—*P. caldwelli*—lateral view of aedeagus; 3b—lateral pygofer process. 4a—*P. sobrina*—lateral view of aedeagus; 4b—lateral pygofer process. 5a—*P. pallida*—lateral view of aedeagus; 5b—lateral pygofer process.

Color: The vertex is ivory with a broad, red line extending across its disk between the eyes. The pronotum is ivory with its lateral margin and the anterior portion of its disk bordered with a broad red band. The scutellum is golden. The elytra are white with three large, anastomosing orange-red spots on each clavus, a pair of similar spots on the disk of each corium, and an elongate golden spot on the proximal third and middle of each costal margin. The face is golden with the genae and lorae ivory, the venter is ivory to cream.

Genitalia: Male genitalia similar to those of *decorata* but the processes of the pygofer are slender, rather short, and extended ventrad to near their centers where they bend abruptly dorso-caudad.

Holotype male collected at Iguala, G'ro., Sept. 11, 1939, by D. M. DeLong; paratypes collected at Iguala and Chilpancingo, G'ro., Oct. 25, 1941, and Taxco, G'ro., Oct. 26, 1941, by DeLong and Good; paratype Jintepéc, Mor., Sept. 6, 1939, by DeLong and Plummer.

***Protalebra caldwelli* n. sp.**

A beautifully colored species which resembles *decorata* (Osborn) in general form but which has distinctive genitalia and strikingly different coloration. Length 3.0 mm.

Color: The vertex, pronotum, and scutellum are ivory, immaculate. The elytra are translucent shaded with gold on the disk of the coria and clavi and with a large orange spot and a brown band on the transverse veins.

Genitalia: The genital capsule is similar to that of *decorata* except that the pygofer processes are much longer, more slender, and straighter. The dorsal processes of the aedeagus appear clavate and the phallicata bears a thin, elongate spine at its apex.

Holotype male collected at Santa Engracia, Mex., Nov. 11, 1938 by J. S. Caldwell; male paratypes collected at Tamazunchale, S.L.P., Dec. 23, 1949 by R. H. Beamer. The paratypes are deposited in the Snow Museum.

***Protalebra sobrina* n. sp.**

A somber colored species which resembles *decorata* (Osborn) in general form but which has distinctive coloration and genitalia. Length 3.0 mm.

Color: The vertex is light yellow with a median and a pair of longitudinal short, brown lines on the posterior margin of its disk; these lines fusing on the posterior margin. The pronotum and scutellum are brown. The elytra are brown with their costal margins broadly bordered with yellow and with a few hyaline areoles scattered across them. The face and venter are immaculate cream.

Genitalia: The pygofer of the male are very slender, their ventral margin is strongly rolled inward, and their thin processes arise on the ventral margin and are abruptly bent near their middles. The styles are rather short with their first extensions short and curving laterad. The aedeagus has its dorsal processes erect and its phallicata slender and tapering to a sharp apex.

Holotype male and male paratypes collected at Iguala, G'ro., Sept. 11, 1939 by D. M. DeLong; male paratype same locality, Oct. 25, 1941 by DeLong and Good.

***Protalebra pallida* n. sp.**

A palled species which resembles *sobrina* in general form but which has a rounded head and unique coloration and genitalia. Length 2.8 mm.

The head is distinctly narrower than pronotum produced for about one-half of its length in front of the eyes, and with its forward margins rounded.

Color: The dorsum is golden-yellow marked with but a round, brown spot in the base of the third apical cell of each elytron. The face is ivory white the venter is immaculate cream.

Genitalia: The male genital structures are similar to those of *sobrina* but the pygofer processes are long, slender, and slightly recurved. The phallicata is very slender and sharply-pointed.

Holotype male collected at Iguala, G'ro., Sept. 11, 1939 by D. M. DeLong.

***Protalebra conica* n. sp.**

Resembling *braziliensis* Baker in general form and appearance but with a more angulate vertex and a distinctive coloration. Length 3.2 mm.

Vertex conically produced, bluntly angulate at its apex, its median length equal to its basal width.

The coloration is similar to that of *braziliensis* but the vertex has a pair of short, median, brown lines near its apex, and the hyaline areoles on the elytra are much larger.

Holotype female and paratype females from El Naranjo, S. L. P., Jan. 2, 1950, paratype female Tamazunchale, S.L.P., Dec. 23, 1949, all collected by R. H. Beamer. Types in the Snow collection.

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